

Maertens
Appl. No. 09/899,302
February 23, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Return of an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 Form filed February 5, 2004, is requested.

Claims 26 and 27 have been canceled above, without prejudice, to advance prosecution.

Claims 24 and 25 are pending.

The Examiner's indication that claim 25 is allowed (see, page 1 of the Office Action dated January 5, 2004 (Paper No. "122903")) is acknowledged with appreciation.

Attached is a Terminal Disclaimer, which is being filed without prejudice, to advance prosecution by obviating the rejection of claim 24 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,495,670. The Office is authorized by the attached cover sheet to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 14-1140 for the requisite Terminal Disclaimer fee. Nothing further is believed to be required to overcome the only outstanding rejection (i.e., this rejection of claim 24) however the Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise.

Entry of the present Amendment is submitted to place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the Amendment, return of an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 Form filed February 5, 2004, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.


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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100